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AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
WOLVERINE
THE CONCLUSION!
plus 3 more all-new features!
COLOSSUS
STARTING THIS ISSUE!

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

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WOLVERINE "SAVE THE TIGER" 1

WRITER — Chris Claremont
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LETTERER — Michael Heisler
COLORIST — Glynis Oliver

MAN-THING "ELEMENTS OF TERROR" 9

WRITER — Steve Gerber
LAYOUTS — Don Hudson
FINISHER — Tom Sutton
LETTERER — Bill Oakley
COLORIST — Petra Scotese

MACHINE MAN "MEETS THE F.F." 17

PLOT — Steve Ditko
SCRIPT — Mike Rockwitz
PENCILER — Steve Ditko
INKER — Dave Cockrum
LETTERER — Diana Albers
COLORIST — Mike Yee

COLOSSUS "GOD'S COUNTRY" 25

WRITER — Ann Nocenti
PENCILER — Rick Leonardi
INKER — P. Craig Russell
LETTERER — Ken Lopez
COLORIST — Glynis Oliver

"THE RESCUE" — CONCLUSION

It takes a lot to kill Wolverine... whose mutant healing factor is proof against any wound — but he's been through a lot, and more. Tonight, his luck and power may just have run out.

"FREEDOM FIGHTERS" — PART 10 OF 12

Man-Thing has been destroyed, his body spattered into wads of muck and mire by an army surplus rocket, his head lost in the swamp's murky waters. Colonel Jody Choate has assumed personal command of the mysterious mission known as "Project: Glamor." At the same time, however, in Florida, mercenary Lloyd Zahner and the devil priestess Marea have confessed their roles in the scheme of the shadow government to reporter Mickey Ditillio. The secret is about to explode into headlines.

A *thinking computer* in the *form of a man*. As *Aaron Stack*, he tries to find a place in a world that's not quite ready for his kind — but will he find it as *friend, foe*, or the *greatest hero of them all?*

"EATING AMERICAN PIE" — PART 1 OF 8

Russian-born Colossus tries to vacation in the heartland of America — and begins to wonder why this country is called "the land of the free!"

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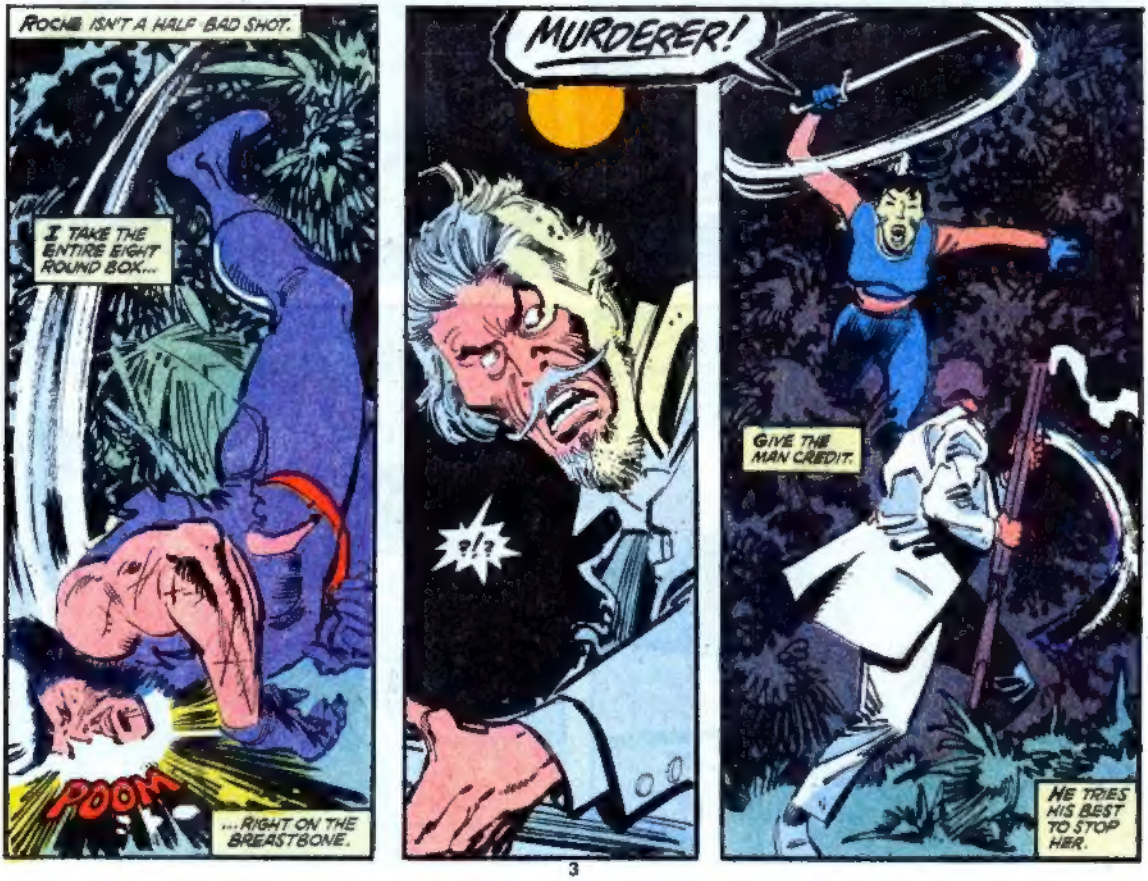
SAVE the TIGER
STARRING
WOLVERINE
CHAPTER 10:
THE RESOLUTION
LAST TIME I CAME TO ROCHE'S VILLA--
--ATOP THE ULTRA-EXCLUSIVE HEIGHTS THAT OVERLOOK THE PORT CITY OF MADRIPOOR (ITSELF, CAPITAL O' THE ISLAND PRINCIPALITY O' THE SAME NAME)--
--I WAS HIS PRISONER.
I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO LEAVE HERE ALIVE.
NOW, I'M BACK.
NOW, I'M THE HUNTER.
AND ROCHE--CRIMELORD OF MADRIPOOR, RULER OF THE ISLAND'S UNDERWORLD--
--IS MY PREY.

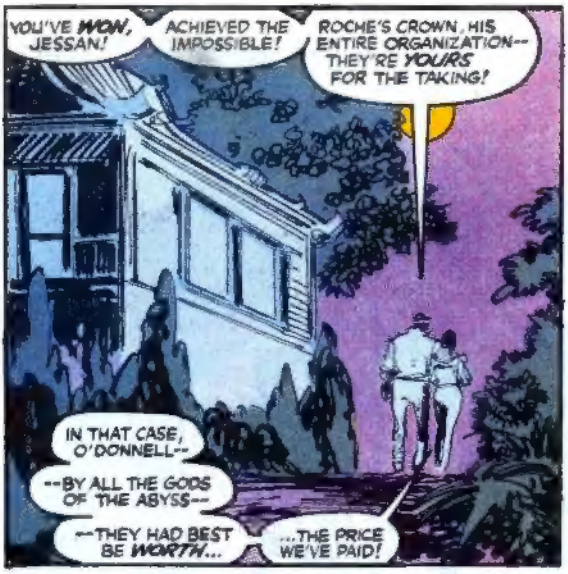
ROCHE CALLED OUT AN ARMY--MERCS AND LOCAL BULLY-BOYS--TO PROTECT HIS TURF.
SMART ONES ARE LONG GONE.
REST ARE GHOSTS.
I MOVE FAST THROUGH THE RUINS OF THE HOUSE...
...COURSING FOR SPECIFIC SCENTS, EACH LEFT BY A SPECIFIC PERSON.
WHEN I FIND ONE...
...IT LEADS ME TO ANOTHER.
LOOKS LIKE...
...YOU'VE HAD YOURSELF A LIVELY NIGHT, O'DONNELL.
NO LESS, I SUSPECT, THAN YOU, MATE.
PARDON ME FOR NOT RISIN' TO GREET YOU ALL RIGHT AND PROPER...
...BUT I FIGURE IT'S A MINOR MIRACLE I'M BREATHIN'.
DON'T FEEL INCLINED TO PUSH MY LUCK ANY FURTHER.

THERE'S A TAINT TO HIS BASIC SCENT I KNOW ONLY TOO WELL.
THE VAMPIRE, SAPPHIRE STYX--SHE MADE A PLAY FOR YOU?
FLIPPIN' NEAR DID ME IN IS MORE LIKE IT. SUCKED THE LIFE RIGHT OUT O' ME.
JESS CHASED HER OFF, THOUGH, AN ROCHE'S BLOODY INQUISITOR IN THE BARGAIN.
"JESS"--JESSAN HOAN--THE SCENT I FOLLOWED TO THE DUNGEON, THE BABY CRIMELORD WHOSE CHALLENGE TO ROCHE FOR HIS THRONE STARTED THIS FLAMIN' WAR.
WHERE IS SHE?
GONE AFTER ROCHE.
PATCHED ME UP FIRST. LEFT ME HARDWARE TO DEFEND MYSELF AND TOLD ME YOU'D PROBABLY BE ALONG DIRECTLY.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
BETTER WATCH YOURSELF--THERE'S STILL ROCHE'S NEW ENFORCER ABOUT, THAT "RAZORFIST" BLOKE WI' THE SWORDS FOR HANDS.
NOT ANY MORE.
MUST'A BEEN SOME SCRAP.
IT HAD ITS MOMENTS.
FOR ALL HIS SKILL AND WEAPONRY, IN THE END, RAZORFIST PROVED ONLY HUMAN. I'M MORE. I'M A MUTANT.

LEAVE ME, MATE. GO AFTER JESS--SHE NEEDS YOUR HELP.
YOU'RE BOTH MY FRIENDS. YOU BOTH NEED HELP.
DIFFERENCE IS, SHE'S HEALTHY AND YOU'RE NOT.
ONCE YOU'RE SAFELY OFF THE KILLING GROUND, O'DONNELL, THEN I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER.
YOU'LL GO NOWHERE, GENTLEMEN--
--SAVE TO YOUR GRAVES!
BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM
SCENTS OF THE GARDEN FLOWERS--PLUS THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF MY OWN WOUNDS --PREVENTED ME FROM SPOTTING ROCHE'S SCENT BEFORE...
...HE BLASTS AWAY WITH A FRANCHI SPAS-12 AUTOMATIC COMBAT SHOTGUN THE INSTANT HE POPS INTO VIEW.
AHRRR
NO CHANCE TO DO ANYTHING...
...BUT SHOVE O'DONNELL OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE.


ROCHE ISN'T A HALF BAD SHOT.
I TAKE THE ENTIRE EIGHT ROUND BOX...
POOM
...RIGHT ON THE BREASTBONE.
MURDERER!
o/?
GIVE THE MAN CREDIT.
HE TRIES HIS BEST TO STOP HER.

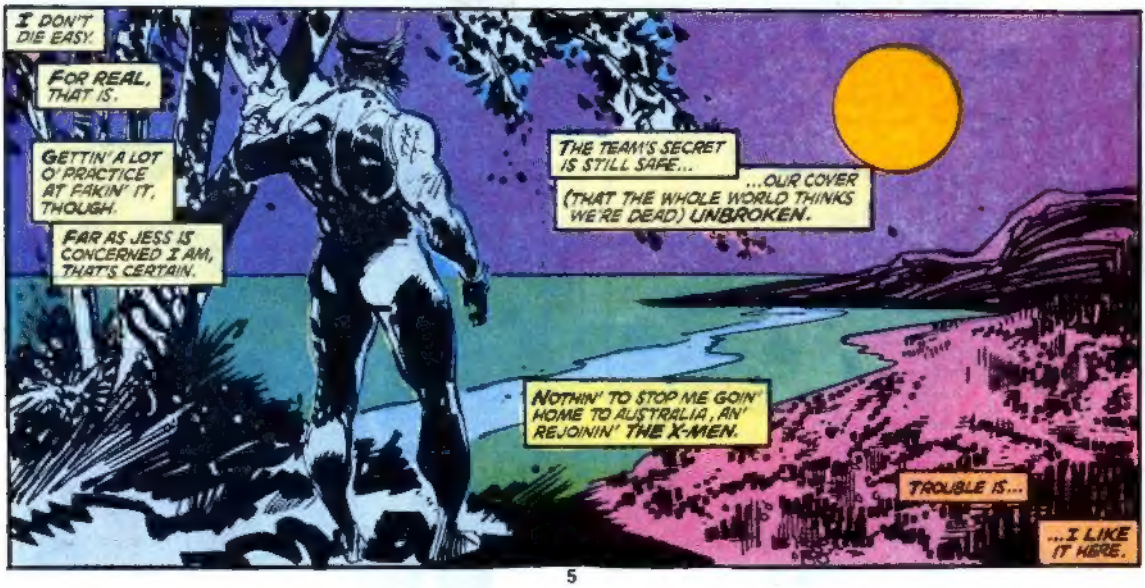
IT JUST ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH.
SLAAAASH
AS HE FALLS, THOUGH...
...SHE DOESN'T EVEN SPARE HIM A SECOND GLANCE.
NO!
NO oh NO oh NO oh NO
THAT SHOULD'A BEEN ME.
THAT'S TWICE...
...I OWE HIM MY SKIN.
AND I...
...SO MUCH MORE.
IT ISN'T RIGHT, IT ISN'T FAIR, I NEVER WANTED THIS!
IT WASN'T YOUR FIGHT...
...I DRAGGED YOU INTO IT.
NO MIRACLES THIS TIME, eh, DEAR FRIEND...
...AS ON MY JUNK.*
I'D WEEP FOR YOU...
...BUT THE TIGER HAS NO TEARS TO SHED.
*MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #7--T.K.


YOU'VE WON, JESSAN!
ACHIEVED THE IMPOSSIBLE!
ROCHE'S CROWN, HIS ENTIRE ORGANIZATION--THEY'RE YOURS FOR THE TAKING!
IN THAT CASE, O'DONNELL--
--BY ALL THE GODS OF THE ABYSS--
--THEY HAD BEST BE WORTH...
...THE PRICE WE'VE PAID!

AS THEY GO, I HEAR O'DONNELL ASSURE JESS HE'LL TIDY UP HERE...
...SEE MY CORPSE IS TREATED WITH ALL PROPER RESPECT.
AS IF I CARED.
AS IF THAT MATTERED.
BY THE TIME HE RETURNS...

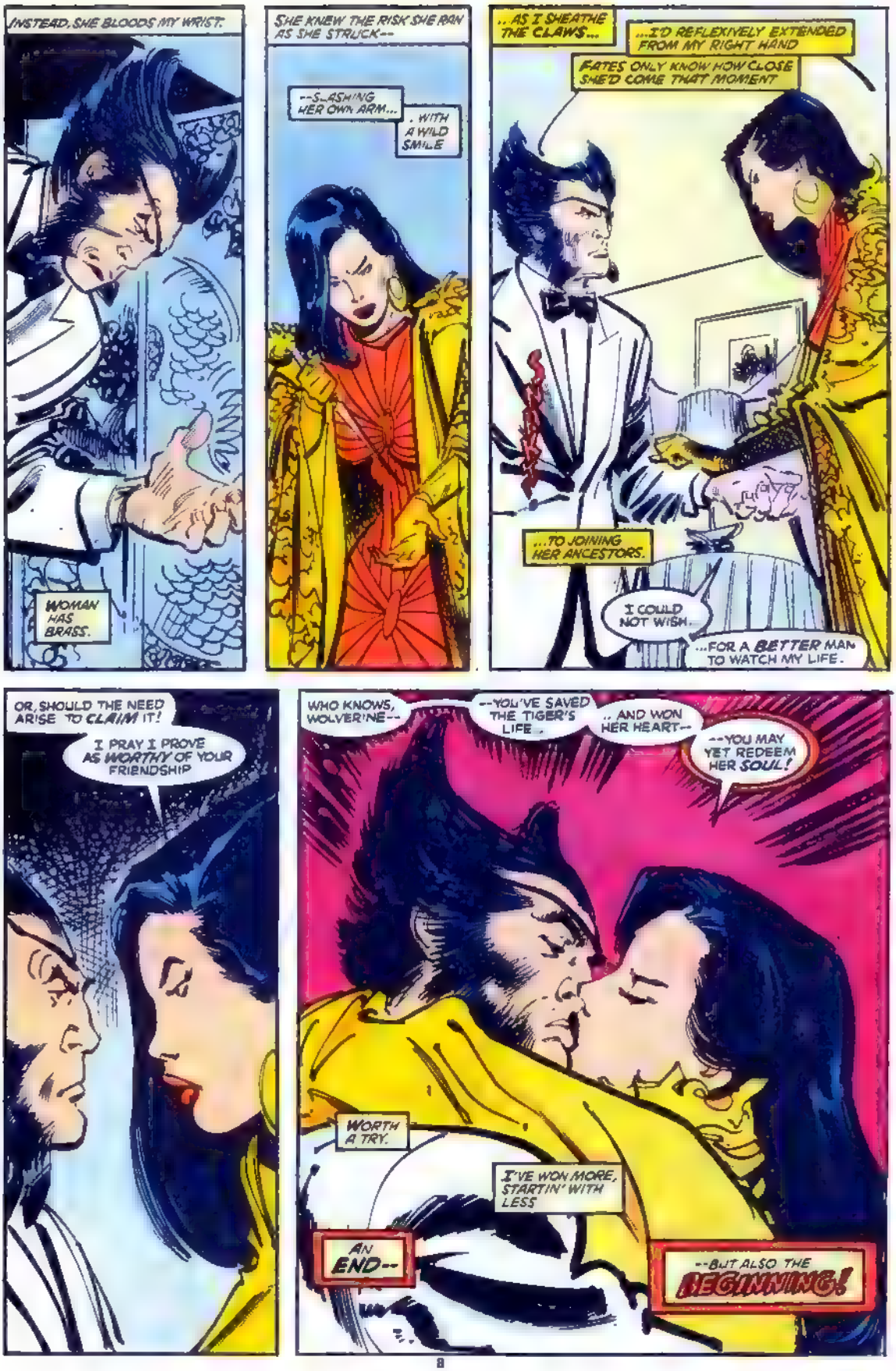
...I'LL BE ANCIENT HISTORY.
CAN'T HELP A GROAN AS I GET UP.
FLAMIN' SHELLS HIT LIKE SLEDGEHAMMERS.
BUT MY BONES ARE LACED WITH ADAMANTIUM.
THEY DON'T BREAK.

AN' MY HEALING FACTOR--
...TO MAKE UP FOR THE BLOOD I'VE LOST.
--THE POWER THAT MAKES ME A MUTANT--
--KNITS UP THE BROKEN SKIN...
...PUMPING OUT REPLACEMENT CORPUSCLES...


I DON'T DIE EASY.
FOR REAL, THAT IS.
GETTIN' A LOT O' PRACTICE AT FAKIN' IT, THOUGH.
FAR AS JESS IS CONCERNED I AM, THAT'S CERTAIN.
THE TEAM'S SECRET IS STILL SAFE...
...OUR COVER (THAT THE WHOLE WORLD THINKS WE'RE DEAD) UNBROKEN.
NOTHIN' TO STOP ME GOIN' HOME TO AUSTRALIA, AN' REJOININ' THE X-MEN.
TROUBLE IS...
...I LIKE IT HERE.

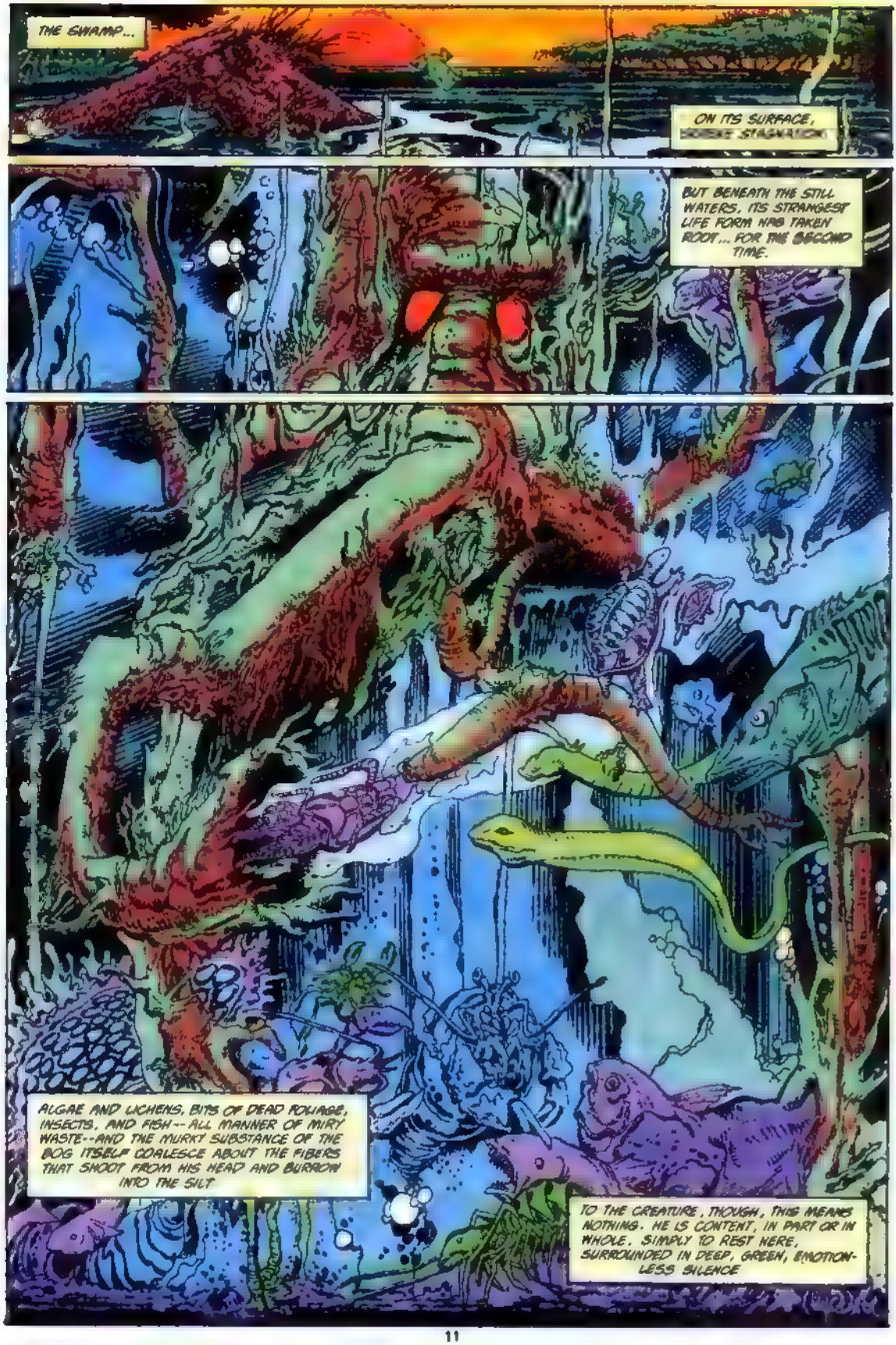
THE PRINCESS BAR--
PRINCESS BAR
--AFTER THINGS HAVE SETTLED DOWN...
...AND THE CITY'S RETURNED TO WHAT PASSES IN THESE PARTS FOR NORMAL.
TONIGHT--
--I GO BEFORE THE PRINCE...
...TO PRESENT TYGER TIGER AS HEIR APPARENT...
...TO ROCHE'S THRONE.
THERE'S A WORLD O' DIFFERENCE, DARLIN'...
WHIZZ
...BETWEEN PETITIONING THAT OL' PIRATE...
...AN' HAVIN' HIM SAY "YES."
YOU!?!
ALIVE?!?
YUP.
NICE TO SEE THE TIGER HAS FANGS.
NOT TO MENTION, THE SKILL TO USE 'EM.
ALL YOU NEED NOW...
...IS THE ABILITY TO DISCRIMINATE...
...BETWEEN FRIEND AND FOE.
THWIP
WHICH ARE YOU, WOLVERINE?
ANSWER SHOULD BE OBVIOUS.
AN' IN MADRIPOOR, DARLIN'...
...THE NAME'S PATCH.

IN MADRIPOOR, NOTHING IS OBVIOUS.
WHATEVER YOU CALL YOURSELF...
...YOU REMAIN A "HERO."
AND WHILE I REJOICE IN YOUR SURVIVAL...
...I THOUGHT YOUR ROLE WAS TO COMBAT SUCH AS ME.
LIKE YOU, DARLIN', I NEVER TAKE ANYTHING ON FAITH...
...OR AT FACE VALUE.
YOU'VE SEIZED ROCHE'S TURF, AN' MAYBE HIS THRONE--BUT YOU'RE NOT HIM.
THAT EARNS YOU THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUST.
THE DAY YOU WALK HIS ROAD...
...THEN, YOU ANSWER TO ME.
Aiyah--YOU MEAN, YOU'RE CASTING YOURSELF AS MY GUARDIAN ANGEL...
...MY VERY OWN JIMINY CRICKET CONSCIENCE?
IF YOU LIKE.
AND SUPPOSE I DO NOT!
SHE'S A TIGER IN MORE THAN NAME--
SLAAASH
--STRIKING WITHOUT WARNING...
...AND WITH INCREDIBLE SPEED.
I WAS CARELESS--SHE COULD'A CUT MY THROAT.


INSTEAD, SHE BLOODS MY WRIST.
WOMAN HAS BRASS.
SHE KNEW THE RISK SHE RAN AS SHE STRUCK--
--S-ASHING HER OWN ARM...
. WITH A WILD SMILE
..AS I SHEATHE THE CLAWS...
...I'D REFLEXIVELY EXTENDED FROM MY RIGHT HAND
FATES ONLY KNOW HOW CLOSE SHE'D COME THAT MOMENT
...TO JOINING HER ANCESTORS.
I COULD NOT WISH.
...FOR A BETTER MAN TO WATCH MY LIFE.
OR, SHOULD THE NEED ARISE TO CLAIM IT!
I PRAY I PROVE AS WORTHY OF YOUR FRIENDSHIP
WHO KNOWS, WOLVERINE--
--YOU'VE SAVED THE TIGER'S LIFE..
.. AND WON HER HEART--
--YOU MAY YET REDEEM HER SOUL!
WORTH A TRY.
I'VE WON MORE, STARTIN' WITH LESS
AN END--
--BUT ALSO THE BEGINNING!

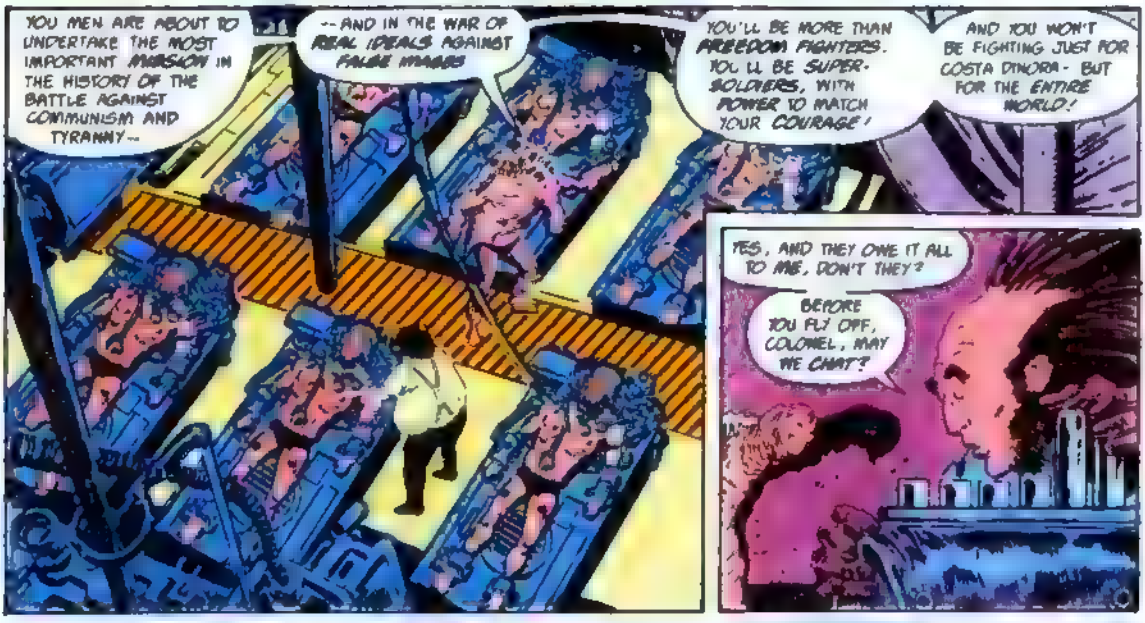
"ELEMENTS OF TERROR" CHAPTER II
FREEDOM FIGHTERS
YAARRRAAGH
THE MAN-THING
EN ROUTE TO COSTA DIMORA...
COLONEL CHOATE -- YOU AWRIGHT BACK THERE ?
MIND YOUR FLYING, DIXON. HE'S FINE
...OR AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED AT ANY RATE
THE SERUM, ALAS, IS ALWAYS PAINFUL WHEN ADMINISTERED
;nunngh! VERY PAINFUL. YES YES
BUT I AM ;ehhhhhh! PREPARED TO ENDURE IT
...AND MORE ;nghnn...IF NECESSARY
...IN THE CAUSE OF ;gahurngh! FREEDOM !

WHILE I ADMIRE YOUR DEDICATION, COLONEL, I MUST REMIND YOU THAT MY INTEREST IN THE PROJECT IS PURELY PECUNIARY.
I SHALL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR THIS TRIP, YOU KNOW
AND FOR KEEPING MUM ABOUT IT
YOU'LL GET EVERYTHING... THAT'S UMH-URRUH! COMING.. TO YOU, MCDONALD...!
FLORIDA...
MY EDITOR WANTS TO SPEAK TO YOU PERSONALLY, ZAHNER
I DUNNO.
TELEPHONE
THEY WON'T RUN THE STORY WITHOUT CORROBORATION FROM TWO SOURCES
YOU'RE ONE-- MARSA'S THE OTHER.
TELEPHONE
TALK. HIS NAME'S TOOMEY
HULLO..
YEAH YEAH, THIS IS LLOYD ZAHNER
RIGHT CORNDOG, YEAH
WASHINGTON, 30 MINUTES LATER...
NO, NO COMMENT.
AND IF YOU PRINT THAT STORY, TOOMEY-- I'LL SUE.
JINA-- IN HERE ON THE DOUBLE!!
YES, SIR ?
BOOK ME ON A FLIGHT TO FLORIDA, THEN SHRED EVERY DOCUMENT IN THIS OFFICE THAT PERTAINS TO THE LATVERIAN ARMS DEAL--
--IMMEDIATELY!
OH, AND I'LL BE AWAY FOR A DAY OR TWO URGENT BUSINESS.

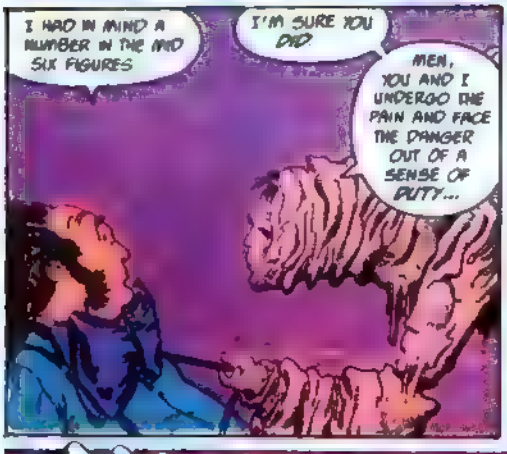

THE SWAMP...
ON ITS SURFACE, [illegible] STAGNATION
BUT BENEATH THE STILL WATERS, ITS STRANGEST LIFE FORM HAS TAKEN ROOT... FOR THE SECOND TIME.
ALGAE AND LICHENS, BITS OF DEAD FOLIAGE, INSECTS, AND FISH -- ALL MANNER OF MIRY WASTE--AND THE MURKY SUBSTANCE OF THE BOG ITSELF COALESCE ABOUT THE FIBERS THAT SHOOT FROM HIS HEAD AND BURROW INTO THE SILT.
TO THE CREATURE, THOUGH, THIS MEANS NOTHING. HE IS CONTENT, IN PART OR IN WHOLE. SIMPLY TO REST HERE, SURROUNDED IN DEEP, GREEN, EMOTIONLESS SILENCE

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA...
SSSSIZZSS
BASSH
SSIZSS
BASSZLH
HE BROKE THROUGH--!!
HIT THE AIR CONDITIONING!
BASSH
PSSSST
GAG
McDONALD, YOU'RE PATHETIC...
--AND DEAD!!
CHANNGSH
RIPTHROAT BRAINCRUSH DEAAAAD!

COSTA DINORA, CENTRAL AMERICA
EYAAAYAGH
AARGHH


YOU MEN ARE ABOUT TO UNDERTAKE THE MOST IMPORTANT MISSION IN THE HISTORY OF THE BATTLE AGAINST COMMUNISM AND TYRANNY--
--AND IN THE WAR OF REAL IDEALS AGAINST FALSE IMAGES
YOU'LL BE MORE THAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS. YOU'LL BE SUPER-SOLDIERS, WITH POWER TO MATCH YOUR COURAGE!
AND YOU WON'T BE FIGHTING JUST FOR COSTA DINORA - BUT FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD!

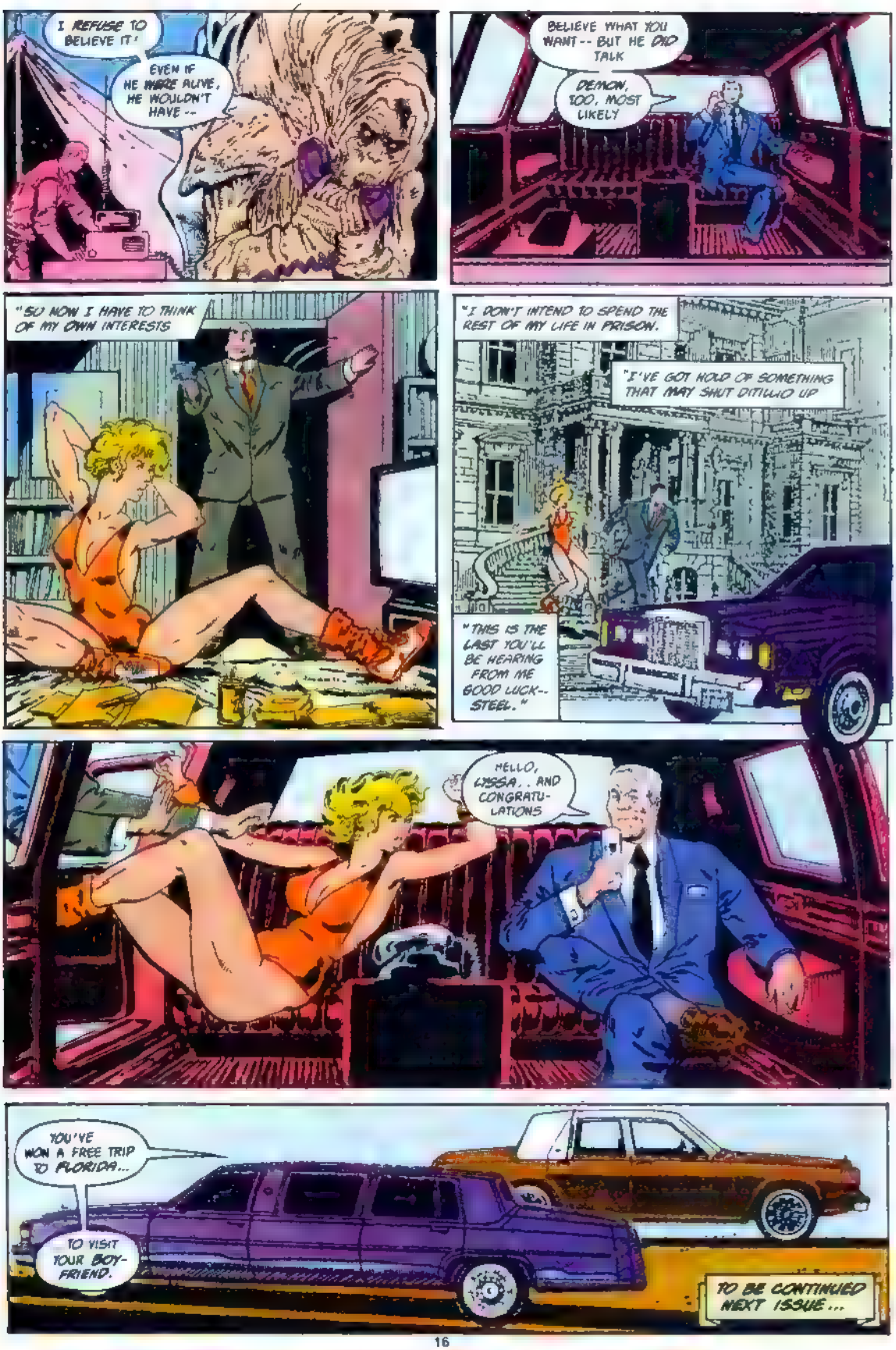
YES, AND THEY OWE IT ALL TO ME, DON'T THEY?
BEFORE YOU FLY OFF, COLONEL, MAY WE CHAT?


I HAD IN MIND A NUMBER IN THE MID SIX FIGURES
I'M SURE YOU DID
MEN, YOU AND I UNDERGO THE PAIN AND FACE THE DANGER OUT OF A SENSE OF DUTY...

.BUT DR McDONALD [redacted] BECAUSE HE GETS PAID FOR IT
HE'S A PARASITE HE SUCKS HIS LIVELIHOOD FROM YOUR HEROIC SACRIFICES

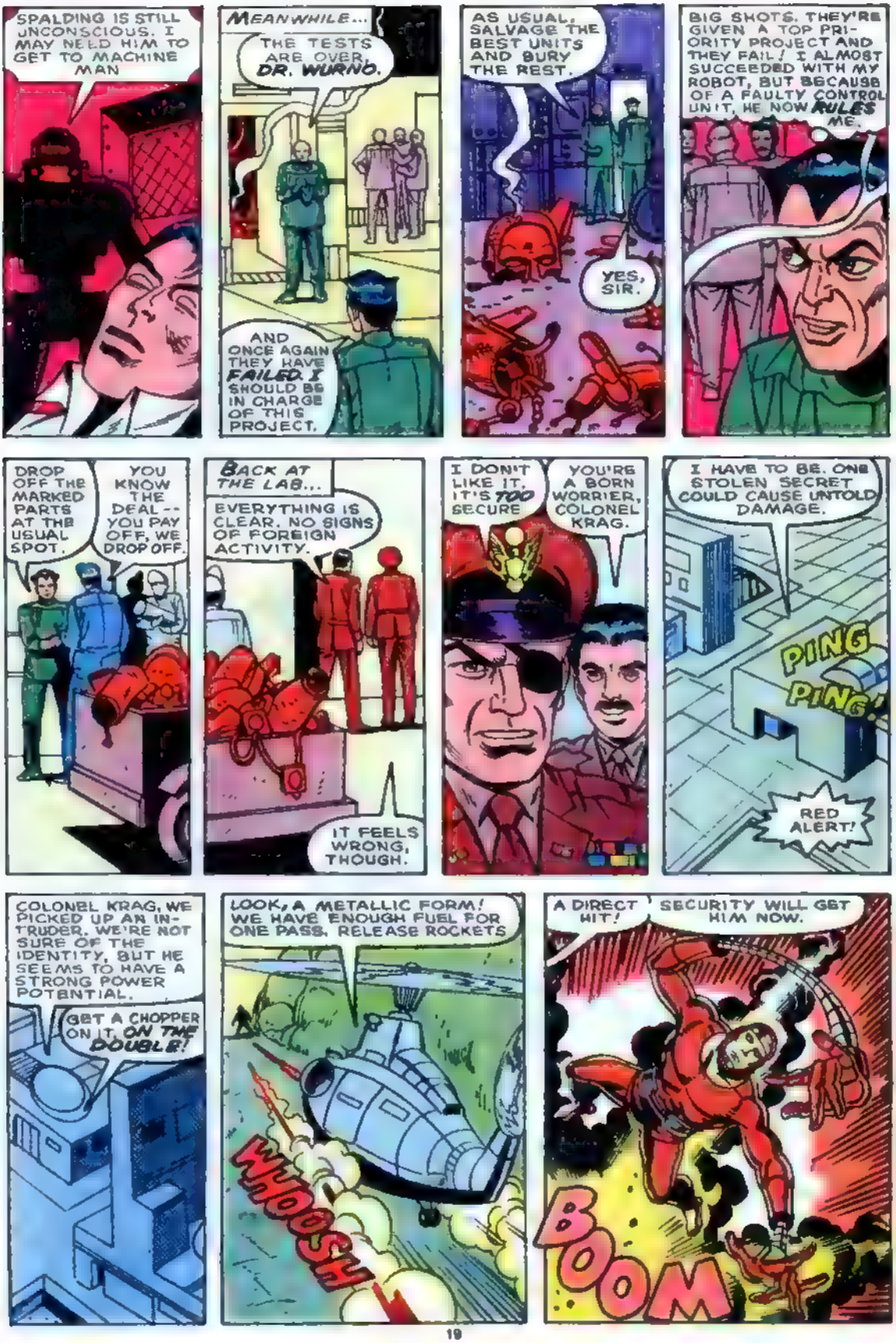
QUITE FRANKLY, DOCTOR, YOU'RE THE KIND OF MAN I HATE

I DON'T THINK YOU DESERVE TO LIVE
HAOORGH
A MAN WITH NO HEART SHOULDN'T LIVE--
KRAK
ZZSSS
--IN FACT, HE CAN'T.
SSSSS
PFT!
WE'RE GOING TO MOSCOW, TO THE VERY HEART OF EVIL IN THE WORLD
WE MAY NEVER RETURN
BUT MOVIE WILL BE CRUSHED
OH THAT YOU HAVE MY SOLEMN--
COLONEL-- UH, EXCUSE ME--!
MESSAGE FOR YOU ON THE SCRAMBLER-- PRIORITY ALPHA!


I REFUSE TO BELIEVE IT!
EVEN IF HE WERE ALIVE, HE WOULDN'T HAVE --
BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT -- BUT HE DID TALK
DEMON, TOO, MOST LIKELY
"SO NOW I HAVE TO THINK OF MY OWN INTERESTS
"I DON'T INTEND TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE IN PRISON.
"I'VE GOT HOLD OF SOMETHING THAT MAY SHUT DITILLIO UP
"THIS IS THE LAST YOU'LL BE HEARING FROM ME GOOD LUCK-- STEEL."
HELLO, LISSA.. AND CONGRATU-LATIONS
YOU'VE WON A FREE TRIP TO FLORIDA...
TO VISIT YOUR BOY-FRIEND.
TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

MACHINE MAN MEETS THE F.F...
MACHINE MAN IS ON HIS WAY TO MEET HIS FRIEND, PETER SPALDING, WHEN SUDDENLY.
A COUPLE BEING ATTACKED! WAIT A MINUTE, IT'S PETER AND HIS WIFE, JILL.
THIS WILL KEEP YOU QUIET FOR A WHI ≥OOOF!
THOK
COME ON, LET'S GET HIM IN THE CAR!
EEEEEEH!
...FAILURE FIVE
WHAT COULD PETER BE INVOLVED IN? IT DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE A ROBBERY. ARGHH!
KLANG!
WHAT A BREAK. I CAME MERELY TO OBSERVE AND I FOUND MY REAL TARGET. I MUST GIVE HIM A MAXIMUM VOLT SHOCK.

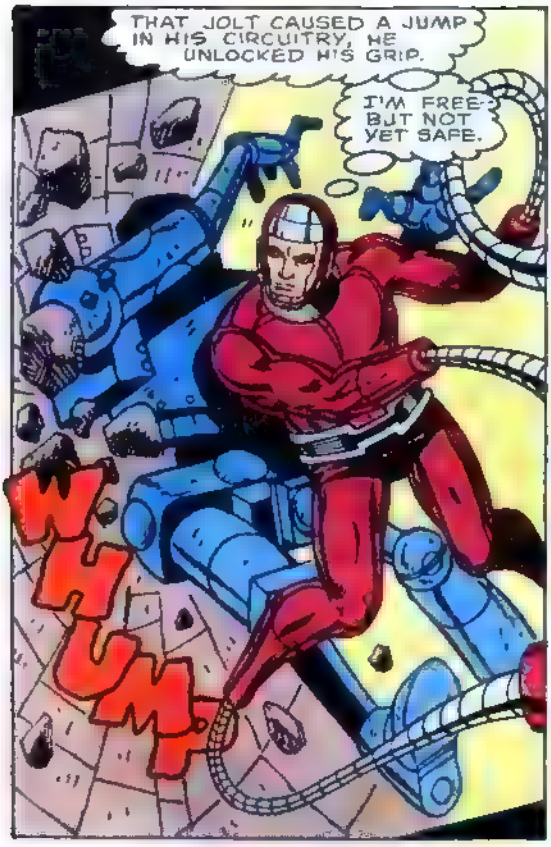
I HAVE HIM. SOON I'LL BE...
...NO. I'M LOSING POWER. I CAN'T HOLD ON TO HIM.
I MIGHT NOT HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY TO GET BACK TO THE TRUCK.
AARON?
I'M OKAY JILL--JUST A LITTLE DISTURBED CIRCUITRY. DON'T WORRY, I'LL GET PETER BACK.
I DIDN'T GET A LOOK AT WHO HIT ME.
IT LOOKED LIKE A... FRANKENSTEIN ROBOT!
THERE SHOULD BE SOME ENERGY RESIDUE. YES! IT'S FAINT BUT TRACEABLE
SHORTLY THEREAFTER...
HE LEFT THE HIGHWAY? BUT THERE'S NOTHING OUT HERE EXCEPT A MILITARY BASE.
ALTHOUGH THEY DO RESEARCH ON ROBOTS. HMM!
ELSEWHERE, AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT...
ANOTHER FAILURE BECAUSE OF YOU.
IN MY GRIP... I HAD HIM... MACHINE MAN
WAIT. I TOLD YOU THE POWER UNIT HAD ITS LIMITATIONS.
I WANT MACHINE MAN'S BODY. DON'T FAIL ME AGAIN, FLESHY ONE.
I... I WON'T.
I WAS YOUR FAILURE UNTIL I ALONE COMPLETED THE CIRCUIT POWER INTEGRATION. WITH THE RIGHT BODY, I WOULD BE INVINCIBLE
MY AMBITION COULD GET ME KILLED.


SPALDING IS STILL UNCONSCIOUS. I MAY NEED HIM TO GET TO MACHINE MAN
MEANWHILE...
THE TESTS ARE OVER, DR. WURNO.
AND ONCE AGAIN THEY HAVE FAILED. I SHOULD BE IN CHARGE OF THIS PROJECT.
AS USUAL, SALVAGE THE BEST UNITS AND BURY THE REST.
YES, SIR.
BIG SHOTS. THEY'RE GIVEN A TOP PRIORITY PROJECT AND THEY FAIL! I ALMOST SUCCEEDED WITH MY ROBOT, BUT BECAUSE OF A FAULTY CONTROL UNIT, HE NOW RULES ME.
DROP OFF THE MARKED PARTS AT THE USUAL SPOT.
YOU KNOW THE DEAL -- YOU PAY OFF, WE DROP OFF.
BACK AT THE LAB...
EVERYTHING IS CLEAR. NO SIGNS OF FOREIGN ACTIVITY.
IT FEELS WRONG, THOUGH.
I DON'T LIKE IT, IT'S TOO SECURE
YOU'RE A BORN WORRIER, COLONEL KRAG.
I HAVE TO BE. ONE STOLEN SECRET COULD CAUSE UNTOLD DAMAGE.
PING
PING!
RED ALERT!
COLONEL KRAG, WE PICKED UP AN INTRUDER. WE'RE NOT SURE OF THE IDENTITY, BUT HE SEEMS TO HAVE A STRONG POWER POTENTIAL.
GET A CHOPPER ON IT, ON THE DOUBLE!
LOOK, A METALLIC FORM! WE HAVE ENOUGH FUEL FOR ONE PASS. RELEASE ROCKETS
WHOOSH
A DIRECT HIT!
SECURITY WILL GET HIM NOW.
BOOM

WAIT. TH..THAT'S MACHINE MAN!
WE BURIED THOSE PARTS AT THE RIGHT TIME TO BEAT SECURITY HERE.
HURRY, GET HIM INSIDE! WE'LL TAKE HIM TO WURNO. HE'LL PAY WELL FOR HIM.
SIR. THE CHOPPER CREW CLAIMS DIRECT HIT BUT SECURITY SAYS THAT THERE IS NOTHING THERE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. I DON'T LIKE THIS...
MEANWHILE..
THIS APPARATUS SHOULD NEUTRALIZE HIM.
FOGGED...SLOW PERCEPTION... CONFUSED READINGS...UHHH...
GET READY TO OPERATE ON US, FLESH MAN.
...ALL SCRAMBLED ...NEED SHARPER FOCUS.
SOON I WILL HAVE YOUR BODY. I'LL BECOME YOU. YOU WILL BE NOTHING.
ELSEWHERE AT THAT SELFSAME INSTANT...
WHERE AM I? WHAT AM I INVOLVED IN?
JUST BEFORE I WAS KNOCKED OUT, I SAW AARON GET HIT WITH A BOLT
BACK AT THE BASE...
I'M NOT WRONG, COLONEL. READINGS INDICATED A METALLIC FORM. IT TOOK A GOOD HIT.
A POWERFUL ROCKET, YET NO TRACE OF ANYTHING.
EVERYONE HAS GOT SECURITY CLEARANCE YET SOMETHING VERY WRONG IS GOING ON. WHAT IS IT? WHO COULD BE INVOLVED?

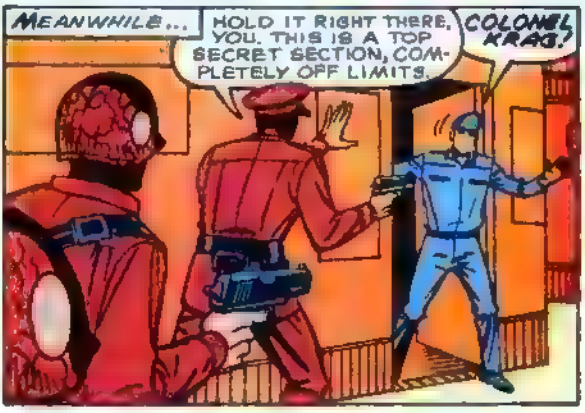
KRAG IS ASKING TOO MANY QUESTIONS. HE WON'T GIVE UP. IF... IF SOMEONE TALKS OR MAKES A SLIP...
...DOES HE SUSPECT MY OPERATION? I MIGHT HAVE TO SHUT IT DOWN. POSSIBLY FOR GOOD.
NO. NO. I CAN'T WAIT. I WON'T WAIT.
BEGIN THE OPERATION NOW, FLESHY ONE.
WAIT! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, LISTEN!
EVEN THIS NEUTRALIZER IS A RISK. WE NEED LOTS OF POWER TO OPERATE IT AND THE ENERGY CAN BE DETECTED, INVESTIGATED. WE NEED AN INDEPENDENT POWER SOURCE.
...NOW I UNDERSTAND...
SET IT UP NOW, FLESHY ONE.
I WILL KILL KRAG IF HE INTERFERES. HE'LL JOIN SPALDING, WURNO, AND ALL THE FLESHY ONES WHO KNOW OF ME.
BUT NO POWER TO... ACT... STOP...
SOON I WON'T HAVE TO DEPEND ON THE FLESHY ONES. I'LL HAVE YOUR BODY AND MAKE THE BEST USE OF IT.
5

...SHARPER FOCUS... MAYBE A WAY OUT..
...DANGEROUS. I'VE GOT NO CHOICE
I'LL DIRECT ENERGY TO THE HOLDING CLAMPS. OVERLOAD, SHORT THEM. AAHHH... BODY CONVULSING... I COULD SHORT OUT MY ENTIRE SYSTEM FIRST!
IS IT FAILING?
AHHH... IT WORKED! BUT I'M WEAKENED!
I NEED TIME TO RE-ENERGIZE
HOW DID YOU BREAK FREE?
YOU WON'T SUCCEED I'LL LOCK MY ARMS AROUND YOU UNTIL WURNO RE-ATTACHES THE NEUTRALIZER.
I HAVE TO BREAK HIS HOLD..
YOU HAVE FAILED, MACHINE MAN YOU CANNOT ESCAPE MY CLUTCHES.
...USE HIS WEIGHT TO SHAKE HIM UP. THEN SHOVE HIM AGAINST THE WALL.
THUNK
MY FAILURES ARE OVER, I HAVE WON!
HE SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE BATTERING.
KRAK


THAT JOLT CAUSED A JUMP IN HIS CIRCUITRY, HE UNLOCKED HIS GRIP.
I'M FREE- BUT NOT YET SAFE.
WHUM

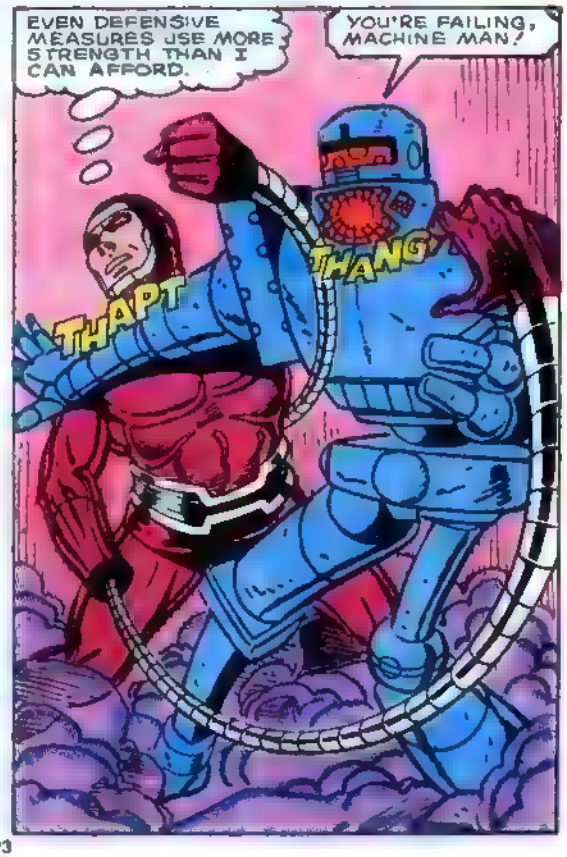
I AM STILL THE STRONGER ONE.

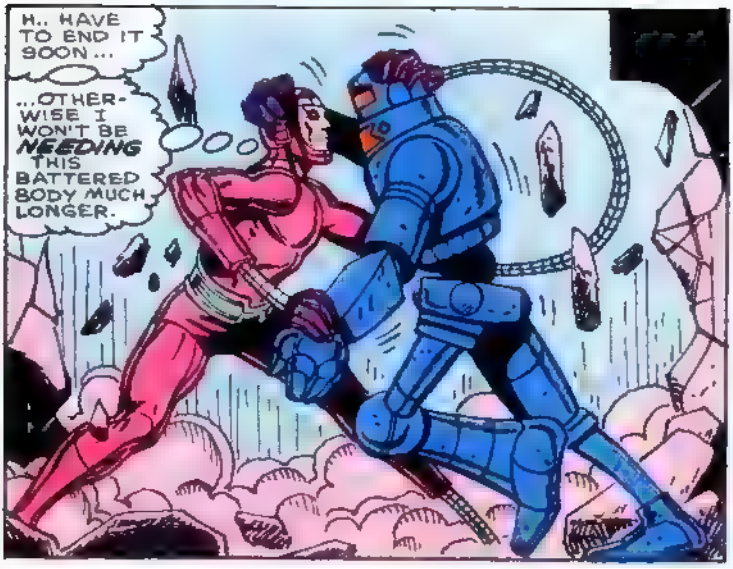
YOU WILL FAIL, MACHINE MAN. ACCEPT IT, DON'T RESIST.

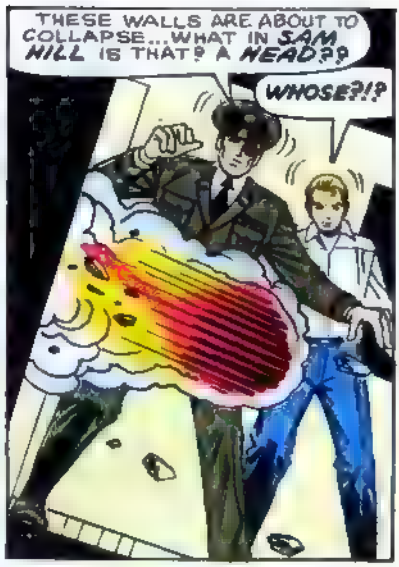

MEANWHILE...
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, YOU. THIS IS A TOP SECRET SECTION, COMPLETELY OFF LIMITS.
COLONEL KRAG?

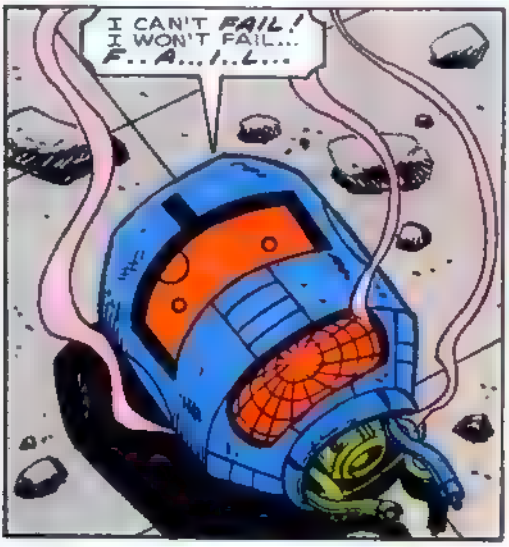
WELL, WELL, DR. WURNO, WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH, NO. I SHOULD HAVE FAILED COMPLETELY WITH NUMBER FIVE.

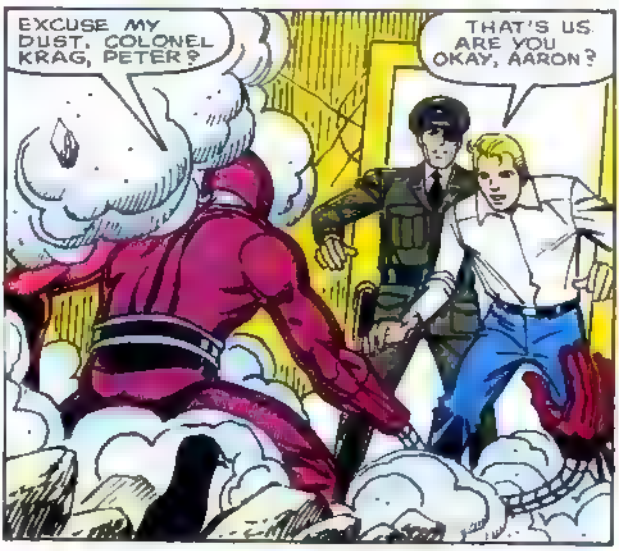
S...SPALDING!? I DON'T NEED TO ASK WHO ELSE IS HERE
I REALLY DON'T KNOW, COLONEL. BUT I'LL BET HE'S PART OF THAT RACKET.


EVEN DEFENSIVE MEASURES USE MORE STRENGTH THAN I CAN AFFORD.
YOU'RE FAILING, MACHINE MAN!
THAPT
THANG


H.. HAVE TO END IT SOON...
...OTHERWISE I WON'T BE NEEDING THIS BATTERED BODY MUCH LONGER.

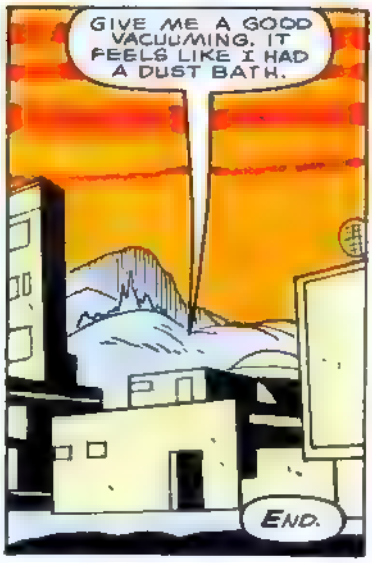

THESE WALLS ARE ABOUT TO COLLAPSE...WHAT IN SAM HILL IS THAT? A NEAD??
WHOSE?!?

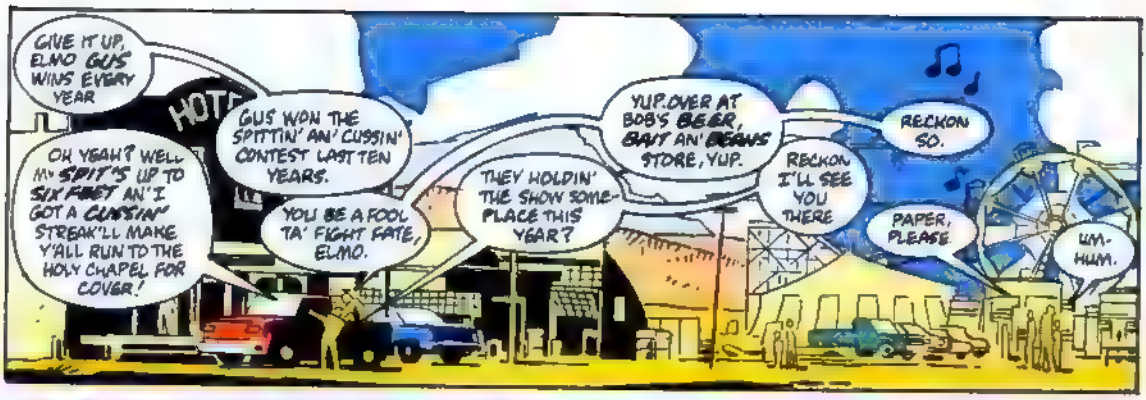

I CAN'T FAIL! I WON'T FAIL... F...A...I...L...


EXCUSE MY DUST, COLONEL KRAG, PETER?
THAT'S US. ARE YOU OKAY, AARON?

I THINK SO. NO MAJOR DAMAGE, I JUST FEEL DRAINED

LET'S GET YOU OUT OF HERE.
AHHH... I FEEL MY STRENGTH COMING BACK.
YOUR STORY CAN WAIT. WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP YOU OUT?


GIVE ME A GOOD VACUUMING. IT FEELS LIKE I HAD A DUST BATH.
END.

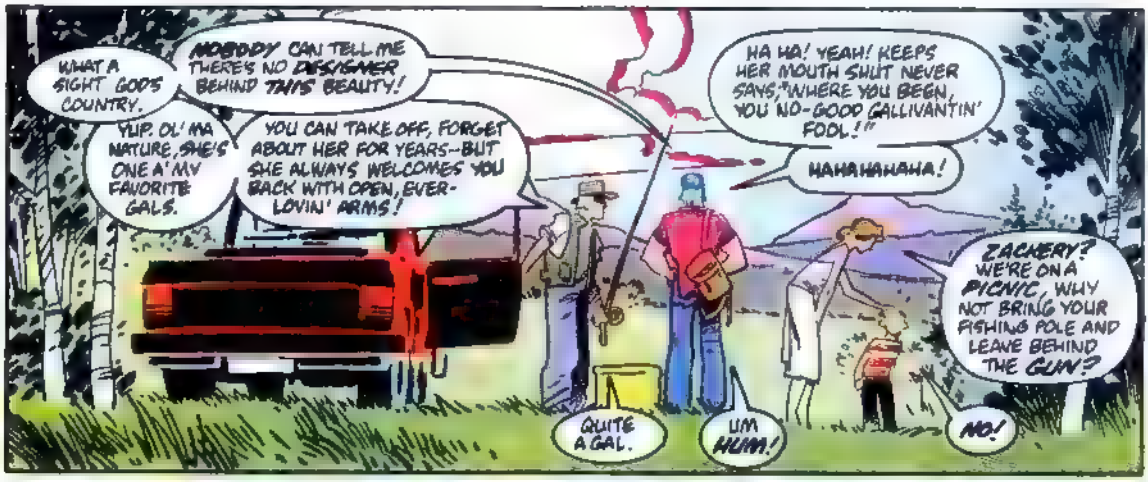

GIVE IT UP, ELMO GUS WINS EVERY YEAR
GUS WON THE SPITTIN' AN' CUSSIN' CONTEST LAST TEN YEARS.
OH YEAH? WELL MY SPIT'S UP TO SIX FEET AN' I GOT A CUSSIN' STREAK'LL MAKE Y'ALL RUN TO THE HOLY CHAPEL FOR COVER!
YOU BE A FOOL TA' FIGHT FATE, ELMO.
THEY HOLDIN' THE SHOW SOME-PLACE THIS YEAR?
YUP. OVER AT BOB'S BEER, BAIT AN' BEANS STORE, YUP.
RECKON I'LL SEE YOU THERE
RECKON SO.
PAPER, PLEASE
UM-HUM.

VALU-MAG
GIRLS
NEWS
CARNIVAL
DISPLAYED LIKE CANDY FOR CHILDREN.
WHAT AT?
GOT YER EYE ON A MAG, PAL?
EPA
KGB?
NO!
SOVIET PLOT
WHATSAMATTER, DONTCHA LIKE GIRLS?
YES I DO. THAT IS WHY I DON'T LIKE THESE MAGAZINES.
EXTRA
HUH?
YOU IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE FREE PRESS. YOU CAN SAY WHATEVER YOU PLEASE!

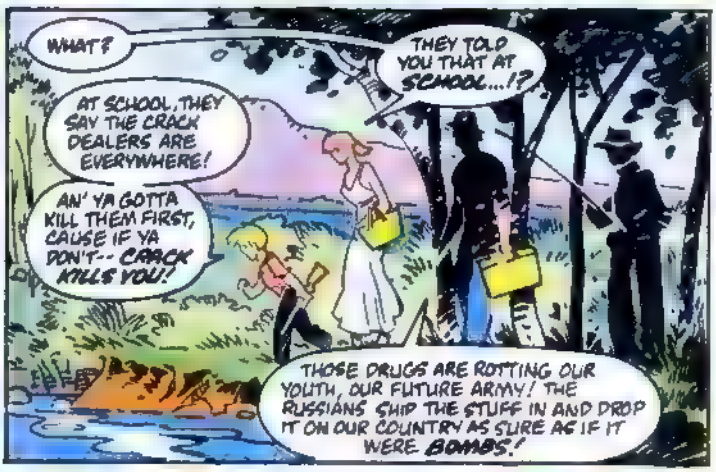
PLAYTOY
SMUT
PORN AGAIN
Raunch Inch
SOVIET PLOT
KGB
YOUR CONSTITUTION GIVES YOU THAT TREASURED FREEDOM.
SO MUST YOU SLAP YOUR GOVERNMENT IN THE FACE WITH PORNOGRAPHY?
WHY ABUSE YOUR FREEDOM? WHY NOT RESPECT IT FOR THE GIFT THAT IT IS?

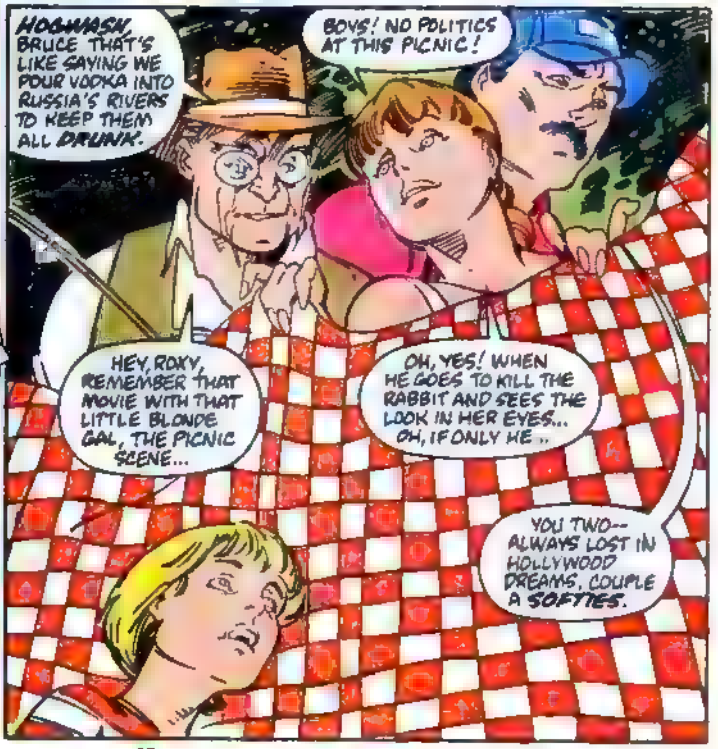
IN RUSSIA, IF ONLY MY PEOPLE HAD SUCH FREEDOM...
AW, SHUT UP.
WHY DON'T YOU PLOD YOUR LOYAL FEET BACK TO RUSSIA THEN YOU RED COWARD
SICK A YOU COMMIES SO FULLA BULLDUNG.
ALL THIS GLASNOST TALK, ALL WHILE YOU SECRETLY PILE UP THE WEAPONS!
YOU HARANGUE ON ABOUT PEACE, THEN INVADE AFGHANISTAN!
EVERY AMERICAN BORDER IS CRAWLING WITH COMMIES HOLDIN' RUSSIAN GUNS!
AN' YOU'RE ALL SUCKERS! YOU PEOPLE BELIEVE THIS NEW GLASNOST TALK? THEY'RE GONNA LURE OUT ALL YOU DISSIDENTS AN' RADICALS...
...THEN BANG-- SHIP YOU ALL OFF TO SIBERIA.
YER ALL TOO STUPID TO LEARN FROM YOUR OWN HISTORY!
MART IN THE WHITE HOUSE
BUSH:
More of the same only less!
BLAM BLAM
BRAINS' GONE LUMPY AS ALL THE SPUDS YOU EAT, EYES BLEARY WITH VODKA...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU DON'T KNOW MY PEOPLE!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
HEY! WHA-WHA-WHA-WHAT... YOU... YOU'RE--

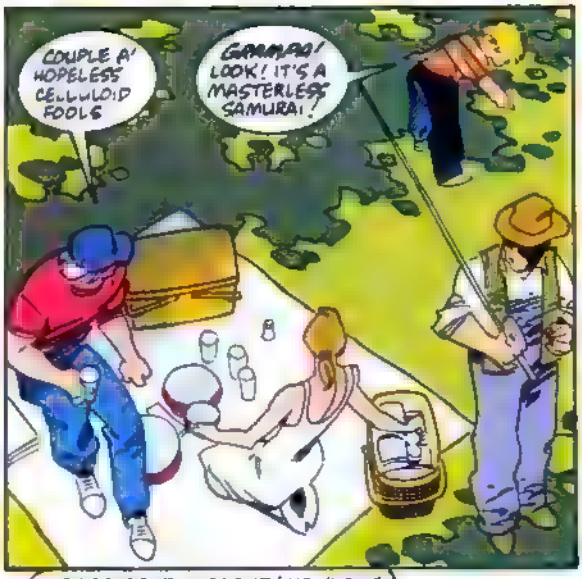
...A FREAK!
COLOSSUS
GOD'S COUNTRY
PART I
EATING AMERICAN PIE

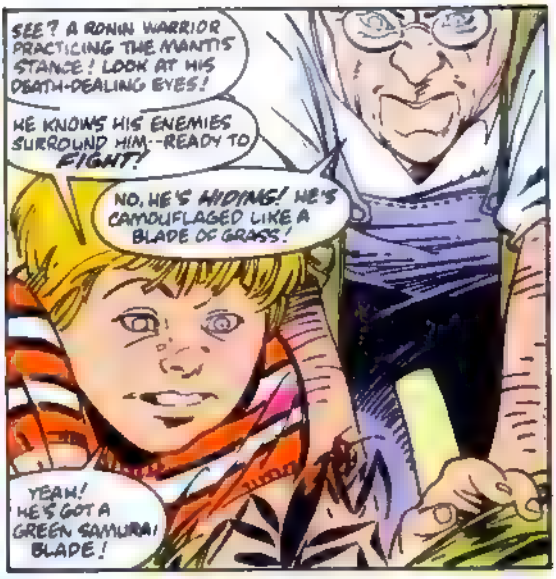

WHAT A SIGHT GOD'S COUNTRY.
NOBODY CAN TELL ME THERE'S NO DESIGNER BEHIND THIS BEAUTY!
YUP. OL' MA NATURE, SHE'S ONE A' MY FAVORITE GALS.
YOU CAN TAKE OFF, FORGET ABOUT HER FOR YEARS--BUT SHE ALWAYS WELCOMES YOU BACK WITH OPEN, EVER-LOVIN' ARMS!
HA HA! YEAH! KEEPS HER MOUTH SHUT NEVER SAYS, "WHERE YOU BEEN, YOU NO-GOOD GALLIVANTIN' FOOL!"
HAHAHAHAHA!
ZACKERY? WE'RE ON A PICNIC, WHY NOT BRING YOUR FISHING POLE AND LEAVE BEHIND THE GUN?
QUITE A GAL.
UM HUM!
NO!

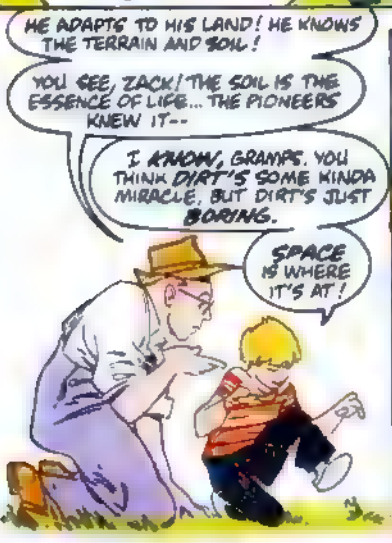
LEAVE 'IM BE, ROXANNE.
A MAN'S GOTTA KNOW THE GRIP OF A GUN AS WELL AS HE KNOWS THAT OF A WOMAN!
LET 'EM START YOUNG!
BUT, BRUCE...
I NEED MY GUN! I'M HUNTIN' CRACK DEALERS!

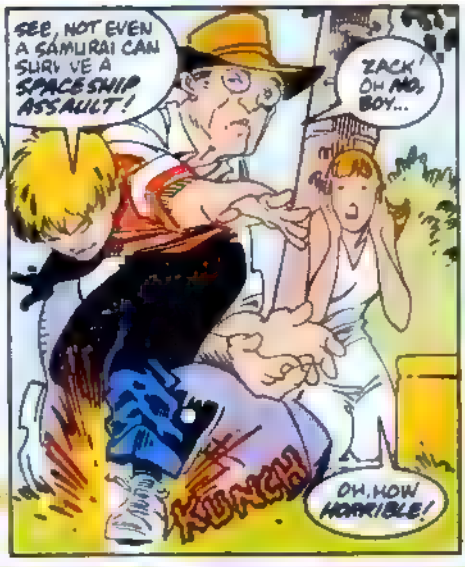

WHAT?
THEY TOLD YOU THAT AT SCHOOL...!?
AT SCHOOL, THEY SAY THE CRACK DEALERS ARE EVERYWHERE!
AN' YA GOTTA KILL THEM FIRST, CAUSE IF YA DON'T-- CRACK KILLS YOU!
THOSE DRUGS ARE ROTTING OUR YOUTH, OUR FUTURE ARMY! THE RUSSIANS SHIP THE STUFF IN AND DROP IT ON OUR COUNTRY AS SURE AS IF IT WERE BOMBS!


HOGWASH, BRUCE THAT'S LIKE SAYING WE POUR VODKA INTO RUSSIA'S RIVERS TO KEEP THEM ALL DRUNK.
BOYS! NO POLITICS AT THIS PICNIC!
HEY, ROXY, REMEMBER THAT MOVIE WITH THAT LITTLE BLONDE GAL, THE PICNIC SCENE...
OH, YES! WHEN HE GOES TO KILL THE RABBIT AND SEES THE LOOK IN HER EYES... OH, IF ONLY HE..
YOU TWO-- ALWAYS LOST IN HOLLYWOOD DREAMS. COUPLE A SOFTIES.

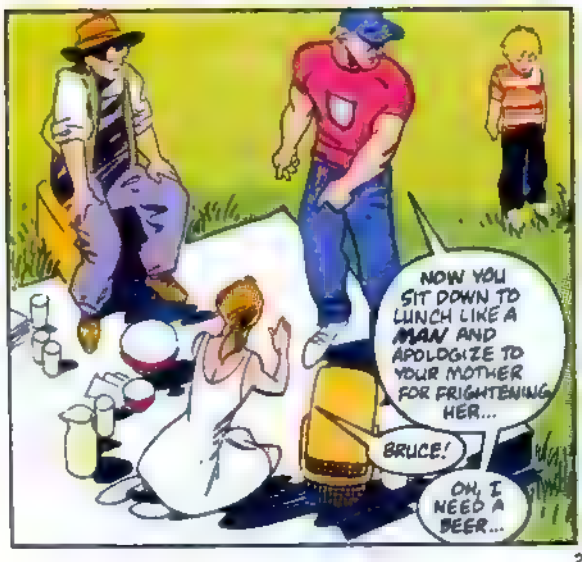

COUPLE A' HOPELESS CELLULOID FOOLS
GRAMPA! LOOK! IT'S A MASTERLESS SAMURAI!

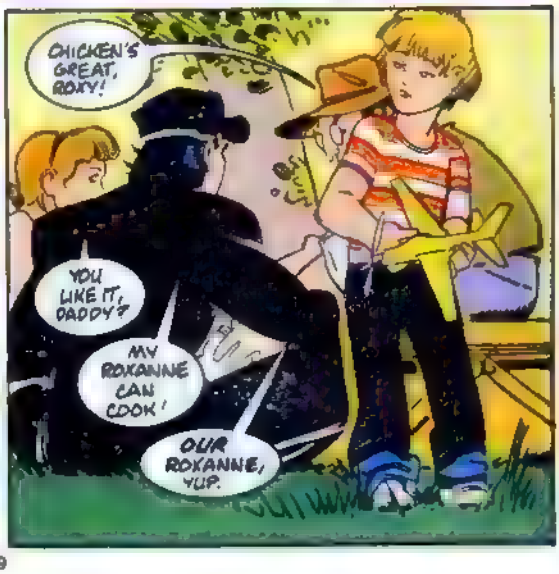

SEE? A RONIN WARRIOR PRACTICING THE MANTIS STANCE! LOOK AT HIS DEATH-DEALING EYES!
HE KNOWS HIS ENEMIES SURROUND HIM--READY TO FIGHT!
NO, HE'S HIDING! HE'S CAMOUFLAGED LIKE A BLADE OF GRASS!
YEAH! HE'S GOT A GREEN SAMURAI BLADE!


HE ADAPTS TO HIS LAND! HE KNOWS THE TERRAIN AND SOIL!
YOU SEE, ZACK! THE SOIL IS THE ESSENCE OF LIFE... THE PIONEERS KNEW IT--
I KNOW, GRAMPS. YOU THINK DIRT'S SOME KINDA MIRACLE, BUT DIRT'S JUST BORING.
SPACE IS WHERE IT'S AT!


SEE, NOT EVEN A SAMURAI CAN SURVIVE A SPACESHIP ASSAULT!
ZACK! OH NO, BOY...
KLUNCH
OH, HOW HORRIBLE!

YOU RASCAL! HOW MANY TIMES I TOLD YOU?
YOUR MOTHER'S VERY SENSITIVE! YOU'RE NOT TO UPSET HER!
OW!
BRUCE...


NOW YOU SIT DOWN TO LUNCH LIKE A MAN AND APOLOGIZE TO YOUR MOTHER FOR FRIGHTENING HER...
BRUCE!
OH, I NEED A BEER...


CHICKEN'S GREAT, ROXY!
YOU LIKE IT, DADDY?
MY ROXANNE CAN COOK!
OUR ROXANNE, YUP.

I CAN'T EVEN BUY A NEWSPAPER IN THIS DARN COUNTRY, WITHOUT FEELING LIKE AN ALIEN!
IT'S AS IF EVERYONE KNOWS SOMETHING I DON'T, EVERYTHING HAS SOME MEANING I CAN'T SEE!
PERHAPS I'M TAKING THIS TOO SERIOUSLY. I DON'T OFTEN ENCOUNTER SUCH EMBITTERED RACISM. THAT GUY PROBABLY LISTENED TO ONE-TOO-MANY "EVIL EMPIRE" SPEECHES.
BUT... ARE THE TWO COUNTRIES THAT DIFFERENT?
RUSSIA'S MEDIA IS SUPPRESSIVE, BUT AMERICA'S IS EXPLOITATIVE!
BOTH CREATE LIES AND ILLUSIONS.

SO IS THIS LAND REALLY SO FREE?
SOLZHENITSYN AND OTHER GREAT RUSSIAN WRITERS, THEY LURE MY PEOPLE HERE WITH THE PROMISE OF SOMETHING BETTER. BUT THEN WE FIND.. OH, I'M NOT SURE.

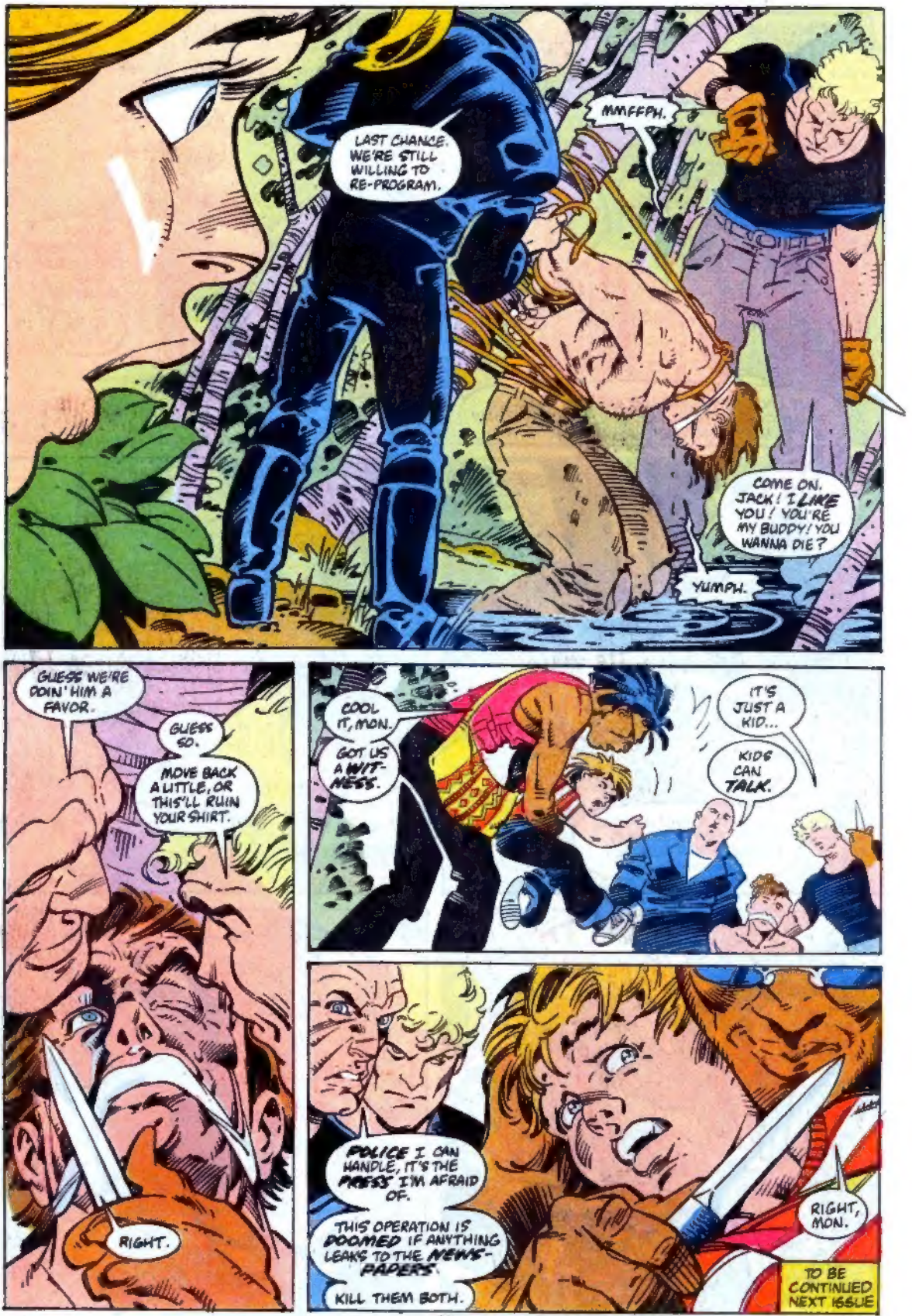
BEING AN X-MAN IS SO FRENETIC -- IN A WAY, EVEN THOUGH I SOMETIMES SAVE THE WORLD, I STILL REMAIN SHELTERED FROM IT!
I LEFT THEM, TOOK A BREAK FROM BEING COLOSSUS, TO JUST BE PLAIN OLD PETER FOR AWHILE.

I THOUGHT OF IT AS AN INNOCENT VACATION. COULD IT BE MORE THAN THAT...?
WHAT IS THIS?

AMERICANS ON A PICNIC, EATING AMERICAN PIE. THEY LOOK SO HAPPY.

ARE THEY? ARE THEY REALLY FREE?

...AN' HE GAVE THIS COUNTRY WHAT IT NEEDED SO DESPERATELY AT THE TIME--LEADERSHIP!
HE MADE US PROUD TO BE AMERICANS AGAIN! AFTER VIETNAM, WE NEEDED THAT--
BUT LOOK AT THE PRICE, BRUCE--OUR PLANET! SCIENTISTS ARE NOW SAYING WE ONLY GOT TWENTY YEARS LEFT BEFORE THE OZONE...
BEEOW ZOOM!
FLYIN' ACES KNEW THE WORLD WAS DOOMED!
SO HE LEFT!
HE FLEW 'ROUND AND 'ROUND THE GLOBE!
HE HADDA FIND A PLACE SO FAR FROM PEOPLE, NOTHIN' COULD EVER GET HIM--
--NOT EVEN THE OZONE MONSTER!
THEN ONE DAY, HE CRASH-LANDED, AN'--


LAST CHANCE. WE'RE STILL WILLING TO RE-PROGRAM.
MMFFPH.
COME ON, JACK! I LIKE YOU! YOU'RE MY BUDDY! YOU WANNA DIE?
YUMPH.
GUESS WE'RE DOIN' HIM A FAVOR.
GUESS SO.
MOVE BACK A LITTLE, OR THIS'LL RUIN YOUR SHIRT.
RIGHT.
COOL IT, MON.
GOT US A WITNESS.
IT'S JUST A KID...
KIDS CAN TALK.
POLICE I CAN HANDLE, IT'S THE PRESS I'M AFRAID OF.
THIS OPERATION IS DOOMED IF ANYTHING LEAKS TO THE NEWSPAPERS.
KILL THEM BOTH.
RIGHT, MON.
TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

THE MAN-THING
MACHINE man
THE LIVING ROBOT